

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:

Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist

Scott Kent, Assistant Management Biologist

Phone: (907) 443-5167

Fax: (907) 443-5893

Norton Sound Area Office

Pouch 1148

Nome, AK, 99762

Date Issued: July 8, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m.

SUBDISTRICTS 5 & 6 COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

Commercial salmon fishing will reopen in the southern half of Subdistrict 6, the Unalakleet Subdistrict, for 24 hours from 12:00 noon Monday, July 9 to 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 10. Permit holders will be limited during this opening to set gillnets with a mesh size no greater than 6 inches and commercial fishing will only be allowed from the ADF&G regulatory marker near Big Lake south to the tip of Black Point. At 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 11, the entire Unalakleet Subdistrict will reopen to commercial salmon fishing for an additional 24 hours from 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 11 to 12:00 noon Thursday, July 12; permit holders will be restricted to a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less during the July 11 opening encompassing the entire Unalakleet Subdistrict to target pink salmon. In Subdistrict 5, the Shaktoolik Subdistrict, there will be a 24-hour directed pink salmon opening from 12:00 noon Tuesday, July 10 to 12:00 noon Wednesday, July 11 with permit holders limited to set gillnets with a mesh size of 4 ½ inches or less to target pink salmon. There will also be a directed chum salmon opening in the Shaktoolik Subdistrict from 12:00 noon Thursday, July 12 to 12:00 noon Friday, July 13 with permit holders limited to set gillnets with a mesh size of 6 inches or less. Permit holders in both subdistricts are limited to 100 fathoms of net in aggregate length.

Recent openings directed on pink salmon in the Unalakleet Subdistrict and chum salmon in the Shaktoolik Subdistrict resulted in strong catches of both species. Eleven permit holders harvested 4,902 chum and 629 pink salmon in Shaktoolik Subdistrict, and 22 permit holders harvested 26,647 pink salmon and 1,328 chum salmon in the Unalakleet Subdistrict. These openings will provide additional opportunity to utilize pink and chum salmon commercial harvest surpluses while minimizing incidental harvest of Chinook salmon as they move through the Shaktoolik and Unalakleet Subdistricts. Like other salmon runs this season, the Subdistricts 5 and 6 Chinook salmon run is shaping up to be one of the latest ever. Thus, a conservative commercial salmon harvest strategy of alternating pink and chum salmon directed openings will be necessary for Subdistricts 5 and 6 until mid-July to minimize adverse impacts to Chinook salmon subsistence harvests and escapement needs.

Commercial permit holders are reminded that the buyer can refuse deliveries for reasons related to capacity concerns and poor fish quality. Tendering vessels are on tight deadlines this season to deliver pink salmon to the processor vessel and return in time to support fishing effort in subsequent openings. Thus, late deliveries might not be accepted this season, which may require permit holders to deliver their catch before the conclusion of openings. Any salmon refused by the buyer must be retained for subsistence purposes.